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AMAZON PACT PREPARATORY MEETING CONCLUDES IN BRAZIL

PY011443Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2325 GMT 31 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 31 Mar--The second preparatory meeting on Brazil's Amazon Pact plan ended here today on a general note of optimism. The meeting had been underway here since Monday, attended by delegates from the host country and from Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Guyana and Surinam.

According to preliminary appraisals, the major decision reached during the meeting was that of calling for a new meeting for 15 May in Caracas.

"Amazon cooperation is an idea predestined for success as proved by the volume and quality of the work carried out during this meeting," Brazilian Foreign Minister Antonio Azeredo da Silveira said during his closing speech.

A press communique, distributed at the close of the sessions, stated that "the constructive spirit which has motivated the delegations has permitted significant progress on the road to a consensus" in the search for an institutional mechanism for Amazon cooperation.

In replying to the Brazilian foreign minister, Ecuadorean Ambassador Rogelio Valdivieso Eguiguren voiced a similar opinion on the success that awaits the idea of Amazon cooperation, and he praised Azeredo da Silveira as "the one who planted the seeds of the Amazon Pact."

The Venezuelan ambassador, Humberto Jesus Moret Arellano, said: "There exists a consensus, and the differences are so miniscule as to be nonexistent."

The atmosphere of optimism contrasted with the meager results of the first preparatory meeting, which was held in November and which concluded without the adoption of the preliminary Brazilian proposal for a pact. The conference which ended today apparently managed to initiate a solution to the juridical problem which had caused the scuttling of the preliminary proposal. The resurrection of this proposal could come within 45 days in Caracas with the definite summoning of the eight foreign ministers to open the final negotiations.

HAVANA QUOTES MEXICAN SECRETARY AT SELA MEETING

FL032327Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2250 GMT 3 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Caraballeda, Venezuela--Mexican Foreign Secretary Santiago Roel has stated that the Latin American Economic System--SELA--has had positive results in its first 2 years of life. Roel spoke in the name of the 25 countries participating in the fourth SELA Latin American ministerial council meeting which was inaugurated today in this beach city by its permanent secretary, Haime Moncayo.

Roel stated that the moment of concrete action within SELA has arrived to achieve the objectives drawn up in the articles of its constitution signed in Panama in October 1975. The articles establish the need to search for a common position for all the countries of the region, to face up to the world problems which affect them, and to face other international organizations so that the region is assured of concerted efforts for its development.

HARGUINDEGUY SIDESTEPS QUESTION ON 'FOURTH MAN'

PY011933Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1310 GMT 1 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpt] Rosario, 1 Apr--Interior Minister Albano Harguindeguy has stated, in reply to a question regarding the date when a new president will be appointed, that this is a decision pertaining to the three commanders of the armed forces. He said with a smile: "We have no say in this matter."

GENERAL APELLA REPORTS ON BEAGLE CHANNEL TALKS

PY311855Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0249 GMT 30 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Mar--Brig Gen Pablo Apella, chief of the Argentine delegation to the Chilean-Argentine commission on matters related to the Beagle Channel issue, unexpectedly returned to Buenos Aires tonight.

While press reports assured that Maj Gen Pablo Apella was in Santiago, Chile, he arrived in Buenos Aires to report on the progress of the negotiations, which until now seem to have made very little progress. At first, there was an impression that a misunderstanding in the talks had arisen, but later it was reported by reliable sources that Maj Gen Pablo Apella has a positive report to the government junta on the negotiations, since substantial progress has been made, including the beginning of an agreement on most of the subjects under consideration.

General Apella also told the armed forces joint chief of staff that he was going back to Santiago tonight, to attend the last meeting of the third round of negotiations scheduled for tomorrow, aimed at creating a working group whose objective will be to find integral solutions to the Beagle Channel issue.

The junta also heard Vice Adm Oscar Montes, foreign minister, who reported on his recent trip to Peru.

Diplomatic Sources Criticize Chile

PY011323Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0135 GMT 1 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 31 Mar--According to diplomatic sources, the conclusion of the Act of Puerto Montt, which was received by national public opinion with obvious satisfaction, does not seem to have influenced the development of the negotiations being carried out by mixed commission No 1.

It is obvious that the recent remarks made to the press by Gen Luis Joaquin Ramirez Pineda, head of the Chilean delegation, were received with surprise. The high military officer said at one time that the negotiations were neither negative nor positive. The surprise increased when press reports pointed out, as unofficial reports, the possibility that the Chilean delegation may request an extension of the term given the commission to finish its task. The deadline for the studies is 6 April and the extension would be for another 45 days.

Supposing that a linguistic error made General Ramirez Pineda confuse negotiations with conversations, a doubt then emerges on the results achieved until now by the negotiators.

If the negotiators are not what we reasonably expect them to be, the time has arrived to ask whether there is enough disposition to thoroughly fulfill the commitment agreed upon in Puerto Montt. Obviously the answer can be given by advance information--the concrete and positive facts--showing that the original willingness to negotiate still exists.

The willingness to negotiate undoubtedly was encouraged by the understanding of the seriousness which was affecting the border conflict between the two countries. It must now be understood that failure in the negotiations will mean a return to the same circumstances and this could get even worse. In the meantime, Argentine official circles are fully convinced that our delegation's participation in the mixed commission has been praiseworthy from every point of view, particularly for its sincere spirit to faithfully fulfill the commitments of the Puerto Montt Act.

The Chilean negotiators do not show, however, the same attitude. It suffices to show the following example: At one point, in the morning, the Chilean delegation promised to agree on some progress made. In the afternoon they changed their minds after a consultation with Santiago. It is obvious that it will be impossible to materialize any positive result this way.

Now, time is passing and the term is getting shorter. It is necessary to insist that this is the time for agreement. April 6 is an unpostponable deadline. If some positions are not made more flexible, if preconceptions which are considered to have been overcome are not finally abandoned, the only and perhaps irreplaceable opportunity will be lost.

Is there a desire to return to the moments of tension previously experienced? Is an effort being made to make the border conflict a controversy of Chilean domestic policy? If this is the case we can undoubtedly say that risks are being taken with a very serious situation.

The diplomatic circles concluded by stating that Argentina, its population and its armed forces, particularly those which have the great responsibility of protecting our southern border, have thoroughly shown that a firm attitude in the protection of our interests is based on the real determination to guarantee by any means our present and future.

MASSERA LEAVES FOR VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA

PY011919Y Buenos Aires Radio El Mundo in Spanish 1500 GMT 1 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Adm Emilio Massera left today for Saudi Arabia. He has been specially invited by Saudi Defense Minister Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Sa'ud. He will make contact with Saudi naval industry officials. Admiral Massera will return toward the end of next week.

FOREIGN MINISTER MONTES RETURNS FROM PERU

PY031501Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1320 GMT 1 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 1 Apr--Argentine Foreign Minister Oscar Antonio Montes stated yesterday during a press conference that his recent meetings in Peru were characterized by a genuine spirit of friendship and an open and understanding dialog.

He added that in his meetings with his Peruvian colleague they discussed their countries' bilateral relations, technological exchange, and reviewed international issues of interest to their respective countries.

He stated: "We must increase Argentine efforts in regards to the balance of payments which is already quite favorable. Argentina is purchasing at present 150,000 tons of pellets from Peru for the Argentine Joint Iron-and-Steel Association."

Regarding the visit Peruvian President Francisco Morales Bermudez will make to Argentina, the foreign minister said that it will take place during the first half of this year.

Admiral Montes also noted that points of agreement are still being sought in negotiations with Chile and that "therefore, I am optimistic about them." Answering a question he said: "I believe that (?the proper conditions) do not yet exist for a meeting between Presidents Videla and Pinochet."

He noted that neither the Chilean nor Bolivian issues were directly or indirectly discussed during his stay in Peru.

In answer to a question he said that "Argentine Ambassador [to France] Tomas de Anchorena was called back to report about the Argentine image in France. I believe he will arrive on Monday."

He reported that he will go to Costa Rica on 8 April to attend the president's inauguration ceremony and that on 22 April he will go to New York to attend the disarmament conference, where he will speak on 26 April.

Finally, he stated that he will be in Montevideo the end of April to attend the inauguration of the River Plate maritime front headquarters.

Admiral Montes will travel early tomorrow morning to the construction site of the Salta Grande Dam, where, together with Uruguayan Foreign Minister Alejandro Rovira, he will attend the inauguration of this important binational undertaking.

MARTINEZ DE HOZ ADDRESSES INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS GROUP

FY031820Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1750 GMT 3 Apr 78 FY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 3 Apr--Economy Minister Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz today officially inaugurated the working session of a meeting sponsored by the Latin American division of International Business Cooperation, which is composed of 90 businessmen from the United States, Europe and Japan, representing IBM, Parke-Davis, General Foods, Shell, Standard Electric, Wells Fargo Bank and the Dai Ichi Bank, and other international enterprises.

The meeting is behind closed doors and organizers are determined to keep it this way. However, it is known that the economy minister gave a detailed speech, which began at 1030, on the Argentine economic situation of the last two years. His remarks were followed by the projection of graphics especially prepared by Economy Ministry coordination director Olivero.

MILITARY LEADERS DISCUSS DELAY OF ELECTIONS

PY032332Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1718 GMT 3 Apr 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 3 Apr--It was reported here today that the general elections in Bolivia on 9 July may be postponed by the military government within the next few days. A high-ranking government official indicated that the high-ranking military commanders who are currently meeting in La Paz will decide on this measure, because "there is just no time to prepare for the first elections in the country since 1966."

Several political parties had asked the government to postpone the elections in which a president, vice president and congress are to be elected.

High Command Begins Study

PA031900Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1830 GMT 3 Apr 78 PA

[By Rene Villegas]

[Excerpts] La Paz, 3 April (LATIN)--The military high command today began to study the Bolivian political process at a very important meeting. The institutional future of this nation will depend on the decisions adopted at this meeting. The top-level military meeting was called by President Gen Hugo Banzer Suarez. Official sources reported today that it is being attended by the heads of the most important commands of the three military branches.

This meeting is taking place only 3 months before the general elections scheduled for 9 July, when as a result Bolivia will recover its democratic institutions following a lapse of 9 years.

The participants at this meeting are at the Miraflores barracks, the headquarters of the general command of the three military branches. National expectations for the results of this meeting are growing. Military sources today told LATIN that the meeting will last until Wednesday, in line with the call made by President Banzer, who is also commander in chief of the Bolivian Armed Forces.

Today, while the military meeting was being set up, several political parties and organizations issued a document addressed to the military government requesting the formation of "a government of transition to democracy." The document, signed by several political parties, an opposition military movement (Topater)--an institution dedicated to geopolitical studies--and by former President Luis Adolfo Siles Salinas, maintained that Banzer's statements reflect "the government's maneuvers and manipulations, which are notably aimed at stopping the process of return to constitutional government." The political document accuses the president of carrying out "divisive activities and of attempting to work against the normal development of the electoral process." It also calls for a "national crusade" to demand the replacement of the current regime with "a transition government that guarantees the formation of state powers and the free exercise of citizens' rights without intimidation, maneuvers or subterfuges aimed at supplanting the popular will."

According to the sources consulted today the meeting of the high-ranking military commands will also evaluate the international policy situation in the wake of the break in relations with Chile.

Communique Issued

PY040235Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 3 Apr 78 PY

[Text of communique issued by army Public Relations Department on 3 April after meeting of military chiefs]

[Text] To prevent any erroneous interpretation, it is noted that the meeting of armed forces unit commanders was convoked in accordance with existing regulations. This is not an emergency meeting, but it does coincide with a special moment in the country's history. Those who try to give the meeting any other interpretation are only contributing to malicious rumors intended to distort the conscientious and responsible attitude of the armed forces concerning the country's constitutionalization. The military meeting will conduct an analysis of the country's present political situation from the viewpoint of the armed forces, determination to constitutionalize the country. The meeting will also consider suggestions from the participating leaders concerning guidelines toward achieving this great national goal. It is necessary to emphatically state that the meeting will strengthen the armed forces' unity and the nationalist process--our best alternative--so that together we will march toward the country's greatest goals.

Electoral Court Confirms Elections

PY040240Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 3 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpts] Julio Mantilla, president of the National Electoral Court, has reaffirmed that the date for the general elections is guaranteed. He said that political parties and citizens in general both have enough guarantees to express themselves freely and to fulfill the dispositions enforced by the states' political constitution concerning electoral rights. He recalled that starting Monday, 10 April, the citizens should go to the electoral registrar in their jurisdiction. The National Electoral Court has already provided the departmental electoral courts with the necessary material. Mantilla indicated that all court presidents are working in their districts under precise directions to prepare the citizens for the fulfillment of the dispositions, and are taking the necessary materials to all the electoral stations.

CLARIN INTERVIEWS FOREIGN MINISTER ADRIAZOLA

PY312105Y Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 30 Mar 78 pp 8, 9 PY

[Undated interview with Foreign Minister Oscar Adriazola Valda in La Paz]

[Text] [Question] After the stagnation of negotiations and the severing of relations with Chile, how do you, Mr Foreign Minister, view Bolivia's recovery of an outlet to the Pacific?

[Answer] Adverse circumstances will not always prevail. The countries have to develop within the framework of justice and growing cooperation. We are certain that this will happen since it is imperative that a continually expanding harmonious coexistence be established. We are living in a world which is characterized by interdependency; therefore, we must guarantee the means to make this interrelation the most constructive. Countries cannot continue in an existence characterized by suspicion and mutual distrust.

The fact that there are countries which have serious geographic restrictions, such as the landlocked situation which was imposed on my country by a war of encroachment 99 years ago, does not contribute to the attainment of the objectives mentioned at the beginning, particularly since Latin American countries are now engaged in a broad process of integration. The Bolivian landlocked situation, as recognized in various international documents, reduces the effectiveness of the integration process, contradicts its objectives, blocks the enforcement of meaningful international justice and greatly weakens American solidarity. I stated at the beginning that adverse circumstances will not always prevail over the constructive American spirit. When the difficulties which today hinder progress toward solving the great Bolivian problem are overcome--which must happen--an agreement will be reached which will allow Bolivia to return to the Pacific Ocean. This achievement will benefit not only my country but all of America since confidence between neighboring countries will then be restored. Justice will be done and mutual understanding in this area of the world will be strengthened. This is the best inheritance which we can leave to younger generations.

[Question] Mr Foreign Minister, do you believe that surprising the Chilean Government when severing relations in La Paz on 17 March was justified?

[Answer] The Chilean Government was perfectly aware that the dialog reestablished in February 1975 was based on the commitment to seek, through this dialog, a solution of the Bolivian landlocked situation under just conditions and flexible positions. If Chile decided to give up that commitment, it must have supposed that the dialog could not continue at the present level.

[Question] When will Bolivia appeal to the CAS and to the United Nations? Will the appeal before those organizations reveal that Chile hindered negotiations for an agreement?

[Answer] Bolivia has already reported in detail to the OAS, the United Nations and to all American foreign ministries on the reasons for the resumption of diplomatic relations with Chile and on the reasons causing Bolivia to suspend them again.

[Question] Is Chile the only one responsible for the lack of a solution? In this case, why was the possibility of a territorial exchange accepted in principle in La Paz? Was the June 1950 agreement, which specifically stated that any compensation would not involve Bolivian territory, kept in mind?

[Answer] The Chilean Government, in clause M of its reply dated 19 December 1975, conditioned its acceptance of an arrangement with Bolivia on the agreement between Chile and Peru in accordance with the stipulations of the protocol signed by those two countries in 1929. When Chile did not receive Peruvian consent it did not make even a minimal effort to find a solution. When Chile learned of the Peruvian decision in November 1976, Chile merely decided to reject it. From that time until the breaking of diplomatic relations Chile did not carry out and did not consider it necessary to carry out any negotiations to obtain Peruvian consent, thereby closing all possibilities of negotiation. The Peruvian Government, in its November 1976 document, stated that this response was an element in the dialog by which a solution may be found to the "previous agreement," mentioned so many times. With regard to the territorial exchange, I want to make clear that the Bolivian proposition of 26 August 1975 did not even use the term compensation. It was only pointed out that the Bolivian Government would be willing to consider proposals which may provide a solution. The idea of an eventual territorial exchange was exclusively presented by the Chilean Foreign Ministry. The two documents, the Bolivian proposal and the Chilean answer, were submitted as the basis for negotiations, thus becoming an overall framework on which no specific commitments were made.

[Question] Will Bolivia ask for revision of the 1904 treaty with Chile?

[Answer] Bolivia believes that any treaty which tends to perpetuate injustice cannot be final. The revision of treaties basically supposes an understanding between two parties. This was the process for the revision of the Panama Canal treaty, an act through which the governments of Panama and the United States gave an exemplary demonstration of the spirit of the Americas. No better homage could be offered to justice and the spirit of solidarity of the Americas than the replacement of a treaty so ominous and damaging to the sense of equity of a free people of the continent by another treaty representing the ideals of brotherhood and justice under which Bolivia will regain the maritime sovereignty it held when proclaimed an independent nation. This act would be proof that it was finally decided to exercise in the Americas a will to eliminate aggression and systematic attack against geographic sovereignty of neighboring countries.

[Question] Does the Foreign Minister believe that Bolivia deserves reparations for the change in the course of the Lauca River? Is the support of the OAS expected?

[Answer] The unilateral decision of the Chilean Government to change the course of the Lauca River in 1962 was aggression against Bolivian geographic sovereignty and reparation is pending. The international organizations, including the Organization of American States, can be as effective as the member nations want them to be. The support of the Organization of American States will be effective in situations which tend to endanger relations within the framework of the regional community, if the member countries express their political decision aimed at fulfilling the objectives and ideals of the Bogota Charter.

[Question] How does the Foreign Minister evaluate the current situation in the Pacific and the southern cone?

[Answer] Bolivia is traditionally a peaceful country and will continue to work tirelessly in support of this supreme objective. Our formula to regain a sovereign outlet to the sea is part of a vast plan for peace, development and integration in the South Pacific. Therefore, this constitutes a real alternative in order to secure harmonious relationship in the southern hemisphere, converting the interests of neighboring nations into fraternal cooperation. Bolivia will continue to do everything it can, despite the misunderstandings, injustices and other adverse factors affecting its overall development, in order to eliminate any tension or mistrust which may emerge in the area.

MILITARY SECTORS GAIN MORE CONFIDENCE IN CARTER

PY040152Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 31 Mar 78 p 9 PY

[By Carlos Conde]

[Excerpts] Carter's second day in Brazil was similar to his first day. Early last night, Brazilian Government officials came to a mutually agreeable conclusion in evaluating Carter's visit. A high-ranking official conveyed the prevailing opinion in the Brazilian Government by saying: "His visit went beyond our expectations."

In a way, the behavior of Carter and his entourage was a pleasant surprise. Although Planalto Palace did not expect him to cause any friction--since that he created during his presidential campaign was considered enough--no one expected him to be so careful in not hurting his host's feelings. Instead, Carter did his best to please his host.

Army Minister Fernando Bethlem did not discard the possibility of a future agreement with the Pentagon. "We do not have desires, we obey orders," he told us yesterday afternoon when we asked him if a new Brazilian-U.S. military agreement was in sight. Showing military discipline, he said that this decision should be made by the supreme chief, General Geisel.

Carter's overall attitude in praising Brazil's potential has been instrumental in removing dissatisfaction from military sectors. Yet if Carter's words are not confirmed by fact, this achievement will be short-lived in military quarters. The old Brazilian comrades felt that they were betrayed by their ally when Carter tried to underestimate Brazil. Now, in view of the agreement reached at government level, they have a little more confidence in Carter's new outlook.

As a declaration of intent, the position stated by Carter should have pleased the military, yet there will not be complete calm in military quarters if the United States does not remove some barriers. For instance, it will be difficult for Washington to gain the full confidence of the air minister, General Araripe Macedo, as long as aircraft designed and built in Brazil are regarded as unsafe in the United States.

CARDINAL ARNS ACCOMPANIES CARTER ON RIDE TO AIRPORT

PY031717Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 1 Apr 78 p 3 PY

[Text] In a surprising move which left security men startled and which even U.S. journalists admitted to be extraordinary, President Carter invited Cardinal Paulo Evaristo Arns to ride with him from the Gavea Pequena residence [where Carter stayed overnight in Rio de Janeiro] to Galeao airbase.

The 46-km drive lasted 40 minutes. According to the cardinal, "we had the opportunity to elaborate on our talk at the house." At Galeao airbase, President Carter was met by the governor and mayor of Rio de Janeiro, Faria Lima and Marcos Tamoyo, respectively. Leaving behind Terence Todman and Robert Pastor for a longer stay in Brazil, the U.S. President and his entourage boarded the plane for Nigeria at 1045.

As he stepped out of the car at the airport, Cardinal Dom Paulo Evaristo Arns told the press that he had been invited to ride to the airport by the U.S. President. "Obviously I did not invite myself," the archbishop said smiling. Dom Paulo added that the U.S. President's wife "fully participated in my conversation with the President, mentioning cases related to human rights."

Governor Faria Lima and Mayor Marcos Tamcyo had been at the airport waiting for the U.S. party since 0930. Brazilian Ambassador to Washington Joao Baptista Pinherio and U.S. Consul in Rio de Janeiro John Dexter arrived a little later.

Governor Faria Lima first greeted President Carter and then met with other members of Carter's delegation: National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Assistant Secretary for Latin American Affairs Terence Todman.

An army detachment from the Galeao airbase stood at attention as a trumpet sounded to announce the arrival of the U.S. President. Carter had not yet completed the ceremonial review of the army detachment when his little daughter Amy took off running toward the waiting plane, Air Force One, which shortly thereafter, at 1045, was airborne on its way to Nigeria.

During a lunch given for him at the U.S. Consulate after the departure of the U.S. President and his retinue, Assistant Secretary for Latin American Affairs Terence Todman said: "The United States is conscious of the fact that Brazil is an emerging power and has no intention of hindering this emergence which, by the way, does not mean military or nuclear power."

Terence Todman and Robert Pastor, representatives for Latin American affairs on the National Security Council, had expressed an interest in meeting Brazilian intellectuals to discuss with them the results of President Carter's visit to Brazil. As a result, U.S. Consul General John Dexter had invited Brazilian economists Geraldo Langoni and Julian Chacel, journalist Luis Alberto Bahia, and professors Candido Mendes and Helio Jaguaribe.

Carter, Arns Discuss Human Rights

PY032105Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 1 Apr 78 p 5 PY

[Text] President Jimmy Carter expressed no objection yesterday to Sao Paulo Cardinal Dom Paulo Evaristo Arns for revealing that he had sent a letter to the U.S. President containing the names of 23 Brazilians--now 27--who were missing.

During the drive from the Gavea Pequena residence to Galeao airbase, Dom Paulo read Carter the letter he had sent him on 29 October 1977. The cardinal, however, chose not to reveal the contents of the letter or even the names of the four missing persons added to the original letter.

In Sao Paulo the cardinal explained the reasons why he had sent the letter to the U.S. President and elaborated on the question of missing persons in Brazil. "We were not expecting President Carter to tell President Geisel that there were 27 missing persons and that he should find them."

The intention was to alert Brazilians to these cases so that they could help shed light on some of them. "The important aspect in publishi g these facts is that otherwise they may be lost to history. This is the tragedy of many historical events: that we lack the courage to make them known."

In justifying the reasons for writing that letter, the cardinal made this appeal: "If anybody has any humanism left, please bring to light some of the darkness concerning those persons who have been missing for almost 4 years. Every week I meet mothers, wives, daughters and relatives who ask me if I have some information.

If someone in Brazil has compassion, an army officer, policeman or police delegate, who would come talk to me, to tell me that he had done things that he should not have done; if he would have the courage to give some accurate information, it would be so much help for the relatives of those missing persons; if he would only say where a missing person is or if that person is dead so that I could tell their families. This would already be a step toward redemption."

Dom Paulo did not want to say anything about the U.S. President's reaction to this matter other than that the President was not opposed to the revelation of the existence of such a letter. Dom Paulo said that his meeting with the U.S. President unfolded in two phases: one in the Gavea Pequena residence with the other five Brazilians, and the other phase, when the President invited him to ride to the airport.

The cardinal's impression, both during his talk at the Gavea Pequena residence and the drive to the airport, was that President Carter seemed to be satisfied with his meetings and understandings with President Geisel, which Carter referred to as "positive." The U.S. President also seemed to have been impressed by the two speeches in Congress which he called "good," and sometimes "strong." In the informal talk at Gavea Pequena residence, the participants have tried to identify aspects of the country's democratization program. It was stressed that nothing has been changed in the laws as yet to insure freedom and personal security, since AI-5 and Law 477 are still in force.

Cardinal Arns consulted with Cyrus Vance--"given our friendship which dates back to 1974"--before presenting Carter with a copy of his book and a copy of a declaration signed by him and by Cardinals Stephen Sou Hwan and Donal Lemont of Asia: The three cardinals had received awards from Notre Dame University while standing next to Carter some time ago. In that declaration, the three churchmen committed themselves, among other things, to raise their voice "as long as torture remains institutionalized and men's fundamental rights are trampled underfoot anywhere in the world."

Another document--called "memorandum by the archbishop"--delivered to President Carter touched on three points, namely: the question of national security, the problem of multinational companies and the problem of the oppressed minorities.

According to the cardinal, the first point refers to the national security theory which is in force from Brazil to Korea as a result of the CIA mentality. "The U.S. President said that that could be a possibility," and then added that "I believe that we are leaving behind that phase of mankind's history." On the second point, the cardinal presented the case of the multinational pharmaceutical companies, for instance, which "exploit people by giving low salaries and sending the profits to more affluent countries. This is an injustice also."

The cardinal disclosed that the U.S. President compared the problem of the multinational companies within the U.S. situation at the time of its independence when all of the wealth was carried away to Great Britain. "He found the struggle a very human and Christian one," Dom Paulo said. The last point deals with the oppressed minorities in areas throughout the world, who are forbidden to practice their language, their customs and their religions, as well as with the large majority who do not participate in the income from production because of poor salaries. "I stressed to the U.S. President the need to create a new social conscience, and that the time is pressing to do so now."

During the trip to the airport, the talk centered on topics discussed previously. We made comments about Rio de Janeiro's natural beauty and returned to our main topics, predominantly that of human rights, which President Carter reassured me to be 'a very sacred principle of his program, including in the United States.'" President Carter's wife, Rosalynn, participated in our talk during the drive.

We commented, the cardinal said, that there was no protest demonstration during his visit. We saw that, as our car rode along, the U.S. President was greeted by the people spontaneously, not in any organized way. President Carter commented on the hand-waving of people who were in their swimming suits on the beaches as the car drove by. "If I can get no additional support, at least I can say that I have the support of the beach people."

The cardinal also reported that President Carter referred to the work being carried out by the Catholic Church in some countries, deploring that in some places "it has not done what it should."

"I asked the U.S. President, who is a Protestant, if he considered the Catholic Church's work like swimming against the tide. He replied that in some places someone who struggles for human rights is blocked rather than supported. President Carter asked me if that were happening to me and I told him that it could be so if for no other reason than because he was my friend," Dom Paulo said.

OAB PRESIDENT DISCUSSES TALKS WITH CARTER

PY040109Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 1 Apr 78 p 6 PY

[Excerpts] "The shadow of AI-5 was present all during the meeting with Carter. He asked about human rights, and I answered that this issue had already been discussed at length. I told him there had been an improvement in terms of tolerance, in terms of the government's dignity, but no improvement in institutional terms. What I mean is: insecurity and arbitrariness continue as they were 10 years ago."

Raymundo, president of the Brazilian Bar Association [OAB], said that "now all we have to do is wait. The problem is ours and only we can solve it. Carter asked if a change for the worse in this situation would be possible. I said it would be possible, but difficult."

The OAB president recalled that the Bar Association's point of view coincides with Carter's on the human rights issue. He said that the meeting was marked by total informality and that Paulo Evaristo Arns was the first to speak. Afterward, Carter addressed himself to each of those present at the meeting. "The conversation began normally, but I would say that the issue (human rights) was given the most attention. There was one point of agreement among all the meeting's participants: that things got better (after freedom of the press, which I did not call freedom but rather tolerance). I say: There has been an improvement."

"But I personally felt obliged to emphasize that this improvement was not the result of institutional change, but of the present chief of state's wishes, despite known existing setbacks."

While still in the garden of Gavea Pequena [where President Carter stayed], Raymundo Faora said he was impressed by the firmness with which President Carter and his advisers took on the human rights issue. "It was very encouraging for us."

"We did not think about what he could specifically do in our favor. He asked about the political situation. It should be understood that whenever there is consciousness-raising concerning human rights anywhere in the world, it is always encouraging. It's good to know we're not alone," Faoro said.

A question raised by a reporter was "...did you get to talk about the fact that succession in Brazil is still determined by indirect voting...?"

"Yes, in fact, Carter asked about that. He asked if we believed in the possibility of direct elections in the future. The reply was that this was a matter for the future.... The case of Senator Magalhaes at the ARENA convention was not mentioned....It's true, I talked about AI-5. Besides, AI-5 was always present. It was the most dominating presence felt."

Later, Raymundo Faoro emphasized: "We have room to breathe with what has been given to us as tolerance. It is hard to answer anything about the future. I believe it is difficult, but not impossible. Everybody is aware that guarantees are nonexistent.... The future is uncertain, and for us, unpredictable. When we said that, President Carter didn't make any comment."

At his OAB office that afternoon, Raymundo Faoro gave additional reports on the meeting with President Carter. In talking about improvements in terms of a political and not institutional opening, he cited this example:

"The six of us here can be arrested for 30 days, remaining totally incommunicado for 10. Anything can happen during that time since we would not be allowed any contact with our lawyers."

CASTELLO REPORTS 'EUPHORIA' OVER CARTER VISIT

FY040047Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 1 Apr 78 p 2 FY

["Castello's Column": "Dialog on Equal Footing"]

[Excerpts] Brasilia--As a result of President Carter's visit to Brazil, a sensation of euphoria and relief prevailed among Brazilian Government circles. The fact that the U.S. President made a lengthy analysis of world policy with General Geisel, that they undertook to maintain direct communications whenever necessary or useful, the specific agreements on economic policy issues, the acknowledgement of each other's right to protect his rights and establish his own policy in matters of nuclear energy and human rights, gave for the first time the impression of a dialog on equal footing, something which is very flattering to someone who was prepared for a harsh and difficult dialog, which is what the provocative attitudes preceding the visit had led us to expect.

The joint communique gives a detailed picture of the negotiations but there are things which must be added, such as the report that the Brazilian Government has stated its intention to defend at the GATT negotiations in Geneva the concept that the fact that a government of a producing country has established incentives for its products cannot be considered sufficient grounds to impose punishment or restrictions on imports from that country. In order to retaliate it must be necessary to prove real and significant harm to the industry of the importing country. Incentives in themselves are not necessarily harmful for the importing country's economy. According to Brazilian experts, the GATT code must clearly define what is and what is not a sin by economic morality, so as not to let the strongest opinion prevail.

In order to emphasize the positive aspects--greatly exceeding the expectations of Brasilia's government, which saw in President Carter's attitude the purpose of "building up trust"--we must point out that in any case, there are still two areas of disagreement between the two presidents. The right to conquer all stages of nuclear technology, staunchly defended by Brazil and only feebly acknowledged by the United States, which wants to restrict us to the field of thorium which does not produce plutonium, is one of these areas. The other area is human rights.

Regardless of the cuation with which the Rio dialog was conducted, even if certain contacts which had been talked about were eliminated for the sake of expedience, it was still very sifnificant that in the end President Carter and Sao Paulo Cardinal Paulo Evaristo Arns met alone. Evaristo Arns is today the main promoter of a national movement in defense of human rights to the extent that the government has mistaken him for a defier of the regime. No other talk would give President Carter a more objective idea of the existence in Brazil of an area of conflict between important sectors of public opinion and government officials. With regard to human rights he must have found a movement aimed at domestic promotion of these rights, among which are freedom and a state of law, in addition to social and economic demands which are equally being spoken for by Sao Paulo's cardinal, who has broad influence today in his area of work and in the shaping of public opinion. The drive from Gavea Pequena to Galeao airport also left behind a kind of euphoria and must have provided further encouragement.

RUMORS OF NUCLEAR FUND SHORTAGE DENIED

FY040206Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0102 GMT 4 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 3 Apr--The Brazilian Government today labeled rumors that it does not have the financial resources to comply with the nuclear agreement signed with the FRG baseless speculation.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman recalled that overall implementation of the agreement was reaffirmed during Brazilian President Geisel's recent trip to the FRG.

According to the spokesman there can be no fear of U.S. pressure against the FRG-Brazilian nuclear agreement.

The comment on this issue was published as a result of the visit by Warren Christopher, deputy secretary of state, to Bonn and just before FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher is to travel to Washington.

During his stay here last week U.S. President Jimmy Carter was not able to convince his Brazilian interlocuters of the advantage of renouncing certain clauses of the agreement, particularly that of purchasing aplant for reprocessing irradiated fuels.

PRESIDENT PINOCHET SAYS AMNESTY UNDER STUDY

PY040223Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0200 GMT 4 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile 3 Apr--Chilean President Augusto Pinochet announced tonight that his government is studying an amnesty which will benefit every person who has been tried by military courts. The president made this announcement during a press conference granted to foreign correspondents in his office.

He explained that the measure will benefit all the leftists who, for some reason or other, have been tried by military courts since the armed forces took power on 11 September 1973. The president emphasized that "as long as the country continues progressing toward institutionalization we will keep marching in this direction."

Although the number of persons tried by military courts is not known, the majority of them belong to the banned Communist and Socialist parties and the Movement of the Revolutionary Left, according to local sources.

Since December last year the government has changed prison terms to exile in the cases of former Socialist leaders Erich Schnacke and Carlos Lazo, who had been sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment.

Tonight the government announced that it has changed prison terms to exile for two former air force officers, Ernesto Galaz and Raul Vergara, who will travel to Europe in the near future.

CURFEW WILL BE LIFTED THROUGHOUT NATION

PA032030Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2005 GMT 3 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 3 Apr (LATIN)--The curfew which has been known since 11 March as "restriction on night movement" will be lifted throughout the country, it was officially reported today. Brig Gen Enrique Morel, chief of the Emergency Zone of the metropolitan area and the province of San Antonio, said that the measure covers the entire national territory in accordance with a circular issued on 16 March by the Interior Ministry. However, the circular does not specify when it is to go into effect.

On 31 March the government lifted the curfew in the metropolitan area and the country's entire central region, as it applied to the movement at night of persons or vehicles drawn by humans or animals. However, the measure maintained the restriction on motor vehicles, and only drivers holding the proper passes were able to move about.

On 11 March the government had lifted the state of siege which had been in effect since 11 September 1973, when the armed forces assumed power.

RETURN OF EXILED PDC OFFICIAL AUTHORIZED

PY040004Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2359 GMT 3 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 3 Apr--It was reported here that the Chilean Government tonight authorized the return of former Christian Democratic leader Jaime Castillo, who was exiled to Venezuela 9 months ago.

PROGRESS REPORTED IN BORDER TALKS WITH ARGENTINES

PA021827Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1432 GMT 2 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 2 Apr (EFE)--Informed sources in this capital have reported that positive progress has been made in the negotiations between Chile and Argentina for an easing of tension that will permit the completion of an agenda to resolve border problems. The third session of the first joint commission, which is to "recommend the measures conductive to creating the necessary conditions of harmony and fairness so as to avoid actions or attitudes contrary to the spirit of peaceful coexistence," yesterday ended in this capital after 5 days of deliberation, calling for consultations between the respective government juntas.

The commission had a 45-day term to fulfill its mission which will expire next Thursday and will be followed by a fourth round of study in the next few days in Buenos Aires. Chilean authorities have repeated that these negotiations exclude the arbitration decision on the Beagle Channel which recognized Chilean sovereignty over the Picton, Nueva and Lennox islands.

It was reported that the joint commission gave special attention to several recommendations for the drawing up of the agenda which will be drafted in its final form in Buenos Aires. The date has not been set but it is believed that there may be an extension of the deadline.

Gen Joaquin Ramirez Pineda, president of the Chilean delegation, and his Argentine counterpart, Maj Gen Pablo Apella, emphasized here at the end of their mission that significant progress had been made.

LA TERCERA DE LA HORA SUGGESTS JUNTA DISBANDMENT

PY040229Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1627 GMT 3 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 3 Apr--A journalist for the newspaper LA TERCERA DE LA HORA indicated today that Chile could develop its institutional process by disbanding the government military junta. In an article entitled "The Conclusion of a Historic Commitment," Pablo Rodriguez, a lawyer and former leader of the now-dissolved Nationalist Fatherland and Freedom Movement, acknowledges the work carried out during the last 4 and 1/2 years by the military government. "It is a fact which no one--friend or foe--denies, that the country has been able to reestablish social order, reorganize its economy and neutralize the disturbing actions of those who intend to revive the past in order to renew the struggles which unavoidable end in chaos, demagogy and the confrontation of classes," notes Rodriguez.

He then points out that "intervention by the armed forces is only justifiable to the nation and the world as an answer to the power vacuum which led us to a Marxist government. "From this it must be understood that as the country recovers its normality the legal structure of the military proclamation must begin to open the way for new institutions which will take up Chile's democratic traditions. And their stability should not depend on force but on the free concensus of the citizens," he adds. Rodriguez also believes that "the military junta has concluded its historic commitment. To insist that it continue would not take into account current requirements and would become an insurmountable obstacle to building a new institutionality."

PRESIDENT REFUTES 'BOURNE MEMORANDUM' ON DRUGS

PA032215Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2145 GMT 3 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 3 Apr (EFE)--Colombian President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen has described the "Bourne memorandum" on drug traffic as the "biggest diplomatic blunder in Latin America" by the United States. He also denied that any national figures were involved in the drug trade. San Carlos Palace officially released today the text of an interview granted by the Colombian president to newsman Morley Safer of the Columbia Broadcasting System television network in which Lopez Michelsen reiterates that "the Americans are corrupting us." In the interview, which was apparently "mutilated," causing various reactions in Colombia, Lopez Michelsen denied that Defense Minister Gen Abraham Varon Valencia and Labor and Social Security Minister Oscar Montoya Montoya are involved in the so-called drug traffic. The president also denied that Liberal Party presidential candidate Julio Ceasar Turbay Ayala is involved in any drug traffic.

White House narcotics expert Peter Bourne presented a report which, according to Lopez Michelsen, included names of high officials and political leaders who were "mistakenly identified." "Most of the charges have been made without any grounds. They have proceeded in a superficial manner," Lopez Michelsen said upon rejecting the "Bourne memorandum." Lopez Michelsen said that the information gathered by Bourne by various means should be verified, and he denied that there is corruption involving drugs at the highest Colombian official or political level. He admitted that there is some corruption at a lower level and by a "small minority," but he said that the government is winning the war against the narcotics traffickers and that the parties responsible are being punished severely. The president added that the "Bourne memorandum" is "superficial..., without depth."

When referring to the Liberal candidate, Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala, President Lopez Michelsen said: "What is said about Doctor Turbay does not really concern him. It is his nephew, who was living in the United States at the time. If he was in the United States, why was he not arrested by the police, if the charges were genuine?"

The Colombian president added that he had delivered to U.S. Ambassador to Colombia Diego Asencio a memorandum "proving that most of the charges are completely unfounded." As he feels that the charges are incorrect, he also defended Peruvian President General Morales Bermudez, Panamanian Chief of Government Torrijos Herrera and Cuban President Fidel Castro.

TURBAY AYALA REQUESTS STATEMENT FROM U.S. AMBASSADOR

PA032230Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--Presidential candidate Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala today asked Diego Asencio, U.S. ambassador to Colombia, to tell the country everything the United States knows about his conduct so as to clear up reports implicating him in drug trafficking. In a letter to the U.S. diplomat, Turbay Ayala says: For the honor of my country and also the party of which I am currently national director and presidential candidate, I cannot permit my reputation and everything I represent to be affected in any way by a U.S. Government official's unfounded statements. Therefore, Turbay Ayala adds, I ask you, the U.S. ambassador, to tell Colombians anything that you or your government knows about my irreproachable moral conduct. A statement to this effect from you is indispensable, not because my honor needs to be certified by a foreign government, but because I cannot give my detractors a pretext to justify their slander based on allegations and mutilated statements by U.S. Government officials. The letter closes with the words: presidential candidate.

CARTER VISIT TO BRAZIL DRAWS CRITICISM FROM HOY

PY032256Y Asuncion HOY in Spanish 2 Apr 78 Sunday Supplement p 8 PY

[By Special Correspondent Cesar Avalos, Jr]

[Text] Brasilia--The arrival in Brasilia of U.S. President James Earl Carter aboard Air Force One began perhaps the most questioned and discussed visit of a president to Latin America. The following hours were characterized by uncertainties, fear and particularly a complete lack of decision which in the end would result in unavoidable disagreement between the peanut farmer from Georgia and Itamaraty.

But beyond the disagreements between two nations, and beyond the fruitful exchange of opinions between two government leaders, there arose the figure of the eagle which so zealously guards the banner of the Stars and Stripes. Behind this extremely brief visit which President Carter made to Brazil--as if 48 hours were enough to understand a nation, an entire continent--there was the shadow of the most powerful country arrogantly trampling on the rights of others and taking possession of friendly territories with an offensive display of self-assurance.

The first incident came up as Carter was arriving in Brasilia. After the landing of the two Boeings which the U.S. Government had leased from Pan American to transport 216 journalists, the U.S. President's personal guard of agents from the FBI, the State Department, the Treasury Department and the Secret Service--a total of about 600 men were distributed in the two cities visited by Carter--did not accept Brazilian press credentials, and only about 30 American colleagues with safe-conducts from the State Department were allowed to get near. Lampreia, Itamaraty's spokesman, was himself left out.

But this was only the beginning. The entire route of the presidential motorcade to Planalto Palace was besieged by hundreds of English-speaking men with armored cars, radios, machine-guns and teargas grenades.

President Carter used two Cadillacs which were especially brought from the United States for his short trips within the city, and he arrived in one of these cars for his meeting with President Geisel.

Officially, only 100 journalists had access to the evening reception at Alborada Palace, but more than 300 newsmen were allowed to attend the reception (is it necessary to add that all of them were Americans?). Furthermore, Brasilia's traditional protocol and formality had difficulties when our American colleagues attended in shirtsleeves, showing such horribly bad taste that a high-ranking Brazilian Foreign Ministry official remarked: "Would they let us in the White House in shirtsleeves, too?"

President Jimmy Carter attended the press conference at the Hotel Nacional right on time. Our credentials were accepted at this time, but only after some persuasion.

The previous evening there had been a strong argument, which was silenced by the U.S. and Brazilian press, when members of the Brazilian security forces were not allowed to get near the floors occupied by the U.S. President and his entourage.

The halls, doors and gates were electronically closed and the other guests of the hotel endured incredible hardships. They even had to sleep outside.

President Carter answered nine questions during the press conference. Seven of these questions were asked by American journalists from the main television and newspaper networks. Many of the subjects discussed had no relation to the two most important issues of the presidential meeting: nuclear energy and human rights. Carter handpicked each of these journalists from the many requesting permission to speak.

Meanwhile, CBS obtained an interview with Geisel. Forty minutes were taped to be broadcast in the United States on a Walter Cronkite program. Exactly 3 minutes of this program were dedicated to the Brazilian president's statement.

Impoliteness and arguments increased along with American arrogance, until worse came to worst: A Brazilian journalist discovered a "green book" containing recommendations to the visiting delegation: do not drink tap water, only bottled water; do not eat raw fruits or vegetables; do not get near animals; do not go swimming in rivers. Jimmy Carter went beyond the recommendations, he brought his own water from California. Fruit juices were from Florida and they had to be sealed and carefully checked before their consumption. The White House butler, Rogelio Guillermo, declined the aid of a maitre d' and eight waiters who were put at his disposal. The coffee was brewed by he himself to check the president's caffeine intake.

The curious thing is that the plates used to serve the guests were especially American-made and the food was previously tasted before it was served, which annoyed Brazilian protocol and President Geisel himself.

Carter made only one public appearance, when he presided over a ceremony in honor of World War II martyrs. The public was 2,000 meters away and could see little of the ceremony. Traffic was diverted 6 hours before the ceremony started.

This is the first time in the history of Brazil that such strict and even aggressive coverage has been enforced. And while negotiations on a possible agreement broke up, disagreements among Foreign Ministry personalities increased.

What were the results of Carter's trip? This reminds us of a very successful novel written by John Le Carre, The Spy Who Came In From the Cold. More than anything else, in view of the insults to a friendly country, it compelled many people to ask: "How does this gentleman protect the rights of other countries if he cannot cope with his own?"

The image of power gave way to another more subtle, and perhaps more painful image: a fearful country. As a Foreign Ministry official put it: "No one wants to hurt you, Mr Carter."

This is why we ask: How many blacks in Harlem could have eaten with what was spent on Carter's security? What is more, how many of those pitiful Brazilians living in the Northeast would have smiled with a small part of the money used on the imperial special service apparatus.

On his next visit it will be more important to carry out a more humble mission, to respect those rights he says he upholds, and to use more clear and simple language so he can be understood by all of those who live in Managua or Patagonia, Arica or Concepcion, Cuzco or Titicaca, that is, all of those who are born in that fatherland which begins south of the Rio Grande and which ends in Teirra del Fuego.

PEREZ ADDRESSES JOURNALISTS IN SAN CRISTOBAL

PA311720Y San Cristobal Ecos del Torbes in Spanish 0200 GMT 31 Mar 78 PA

[Speech by President Carlos Andres Perez at meeting of newsmen from Andean Pact countries in San Cristobal--live]

[Excerpts] I salute with enthusiasm this initiative of holding a (?meeting) of newsmen from the Andean region and warmly congratulate those who have informed me of this initiative. I reiterate today at this inaugural event the open support of the Venezuelan Government not only to carry out this initiative but also to follow it up actively. We are not hostile to news reporting by transnational enterprises. We do not hinder them in any way from establishing their agencies and sending whatever news they deem worthwhile about events in our fatherland. Furthermore, we feel that these large transnational enterprises are also necessary and render a service to social communications. What we denounce and criticize is monopoly on news reporting and manipulation of news.

Latin America has an indisputable, sovereign right to try to inform the world and to be informed pursuant to the region's most vital interests. The Andean Pact member countries have not only the right but also the need to obtain truthful information from among pact member countries and to project their activities toward the entire world.

As has been stated tonight, the communications media and communications among the Andean Pact member countries are a factor for shaping the destiny of these countries. We repeat that we have not been getting this truthful, serious, objective and at the same time positive news reporting from the transnational news enterprises because at times they are not interested and in other cases the news is in conflict with the interests they are connected with in the countries controlling economic power in the world.

These are the realities that have led us to become full-time advocates of a news communication system for the Third World and of a Latin American news reporting system and in this case, if need be, a news communication system for the Andean Pact. This is the position Venezuela has upheld in the meetings of the [word indistinct]. There has been no truthful reporting on discussions at UNESCO or on what is expected at UNESCO either.

It is very easy to say that the Third World countries, many of which are controlled by governments which do not derive power from the expression of popular will, wish to create an official news agency. It is easy to warn the world of the possibility that these governments would be the ones who would control the news received in various countries of the world.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Nothing could be more inaccurate than this depiction of discussions at UNESCO. We want the organization of a truthful and objective news reporting system not controlled by governments which newsmen and writers and governments would participate in to give it the strength of their economic support and, particularly, the strength of their diplomatic support. We could do nothing with a regional or Third World news reporting system that could not meet the criteria of the major communications media of the large countries of the world. Only through reciprocal agreements could we find a place for this information, which the Third World, Latin America, the Andean Pact nations and Venezuela deserve. News cannot continue to be manipulated as has been the case to date.

This information system would at no time be controlled by governments of one or another persuasion. Neither would this news reporting system be a vehicle of opinion but of information. It would not respond to the ideological designs of any nation or to economic manipulations by those of us who are unable to manipulate any economy but who are the target of manipulations by world economic forces.

This is the function UNESCO has been performing, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which is concerned over this huge gap existing between what happens in Third World countries and what is reported to the world's industrialized countries; between the news sent to us from those nations and the objectives sought through such slanted information. Obviously, it would be unjust and exaggerated to deny the positive aspects of these major transnational agencies. It would also be a historical injustice not to recognize the services they have rendered to communications among the various regions of the world. The issue involved here is not a clash, a confrontation between one system and another but the defense of our right to create our own system to serve our interests the way we understand them and in accordance with the objectives we have set for ourselves in the search for our social, cultural, economic and political development.

I feel that the creation of this Third World system with its regional organizations would be so fruitful and so important that it could fit in with those other major transnational enterprises and be a system of understanding and cooperation to create a mutual relationship that really serves the noble and great objectives mankind strives for.

You will see that very little will be said in the world about this important and far-ranging initiative that has been taken by the (?boards) of the Andean area. If anything is said, it will be that this involves a political maneuver of a given persuasion or an action concocted by the Venezuelan Government in favor of official control of the news reporting system.

I feel that we could move forward with this experience of the Andean area over a short term and that we ought to make the Cartagena Accord board interested in it because I feel that all of the pact's member countries and our representatives in it have already suffered the harsh experiences of seeing how their statements are distorted and how attempts are made to pit one against the other, to stir rivalries so the pressures on their respective countries would upset the decisions of the Andean Pact.

I believe that these past experiences would help us very much to start as of now a news reporting system that would not seek grandiose goals but would resign itself to gradually creating, through its actions, the needs that (?it) exist in the conscience of each member of the Andean Pact, of each one of you.

I urge you, I invite you to discuss this. I propose that we seek to create a fundamental system, that we propose to the Cartagena Accord board and to the governments represented in it the initiation of a news reporting system that will allow us to move forward, with less fear and with greater assurance, with this extraordinary step toward Latin American integration.

TORRIJOS LETTER EXPLAINS STAND ON TREATY RATIFICATION

PA031716Y Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 3 Apr 78 p 1 PA

[Text] Dr Jorge E. Illueca has explained to each and every one of the United Nations permanent delegates Panama's official position on the amendments, reservations and agreements introduced into the Torrijos-Carter neutrality treaty.

Dr Illueca, our representative at that important international organization, explained to all the delegates that the Panamanian Government has a specific method to deal with the recent developments connected with the Senate's decision to introduce reservations and amendments into the neutrality treaty. At the right moment, he added, the Panamanian Government will announce its final decision. The document was drafted by our Foreign Ministry.

The Panamanian document was immediately translated into all the official working languages of the United Nations.

Meanwhile, it has been learned that the Panamanian chief of government has sent a letter to all presidents, chiefs of government, kings and other leaders through the representatives of the more than 115 states that comprise the United Nations. The letter explains Panama's position on the U.S. Senate's current process of ratification of the treaties.

JURISTS SCORE DECONCINI TREATY RESERVATION

PA012120Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 1 Apr 78 pp 1A, 10A PA

[Text] At a panel meeting sponsored by the Panamanian Business Executives Association [APEDE] last night, Panamanian jurists Julio Linares and Cesar Quintero advocated the complete rejection of the DeConcini reservation to the neutrality treaty.

Both agreed that the DeConcini reservation contradicts the originally signed neutrality treaty because it grants the United States the right to intervene in Panama, to occupy our entire territory militarily and to exercise sovereign rights at least over the occupied areas.

The two jurists pointed out that any reservation to a treaty entered into between two nations is considered to be a rejection of the treaty, since it is an attempt to modify or limit the scope of the treaty, and that the reservations made to the neutrality treaty affect the structure of the treaties as originally approved.

Dr Quintero said he doubts whether the U.S. Senate will ratify the Panama Canal treaty without reservations and amendments. To him, this is the more important of the two treaties.

Dr Quintero also pointed to the serious threat to the integrity of Panama as a nation posed by the reservation presented by Senator Nunn, which states that after the year 2000, Panama and the United States may at any time after 31 December 1999 make agreements on the fulfillment of their responsibilities to maintain the neutrality regime, as well as on the stationing of U.S. military forces or the maintenance in the Republic of Panama of U.S. defense sites after the date that both nations may deem appropriate. Dr Quintero explained that he feels that sooner or later Panama will have to consent to the presence of military bases on its territory beyond the year 2000.

The distinguished Panamanian lawyers agreed that for approval of the neutrality treaty, the national government must call a second plebiscite because the constitution of the Republic of Panama establishes that to ratify a treaty of the type with which we are concerned, it is imperative to have the approval of the Panamanian people and the executive branch. On the other hand, the jurist explained, if the treaty is rejected by the Panamanian people, the national government does not need to call a plebiscite.

Dr Quintero said he is of the opinion that President Carter is committed to the ratification of the treaty. It is clear, however, he added, that he cannot reject any of the amendments or reservations introduced by the U.S. Senate.

If the treaties are rejected by the Republic of Panama, they would become ineffective, and a new period of negotiations could be reopened.

The reservations made to the neutrality treaty, according to Dr Linares, are contrary not only to the UN Charter but to a number of treaties which prohibit the intervention of a state in the internal affairs of another.

Dr Carlos Sucre, another panelist invited by APEDE to take part in the broad debate on the reservations, amendments and accords to the neutrality treaty, reserved the right to express his opinion after the U.S. Senate decision on the Panama Canal treaty.

Some persons attending the panel, members of APEDE, questioned the need to wait until the Panama Canal treaty ratification, while others opposed ratification of the treaties with the reservations introduced by the U.S. Senate.

INDEPENDENT LAWYERS CALL FOR REJECTION OF TREATY CHANGES

PA012250Y Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 1 Apr 78 pp 10, 13 PA

[Manifesto No 4 issued by Movement of Independent Lawyers]

[Excerpts] The Movement of Independent Lawyers [MAI], which has carefully followed the development of the U.S. Senate deliberations regarding the ratification of the Torrijos-Carter treaties, believes that since the first phase of the ratification process is over, it should explain its position on what that legislative body has done so far.

As the public knows, the MAI opposed the ratification of the Torrijos-Carter treaties by the Republic of Panama on the grounds that the treaties, far from satisfying the legitimate aspirations for which the Panamanian people have struggled, impose onerous burdens on our country which are in no way justifiable and which deeply harm the most cherished national interests.

When the U.S. Senate began formal consideration of the treaties, the MAI decided to refrain from making a public pronouncement regarding the treaties or the process of ratification. Two basic considerations justified this decision: first, that anything the movement said would not exert any desirable influence on the decision reached by that legislative body with regard to the matter concerning all of us. The second and perhaps more important reason concerns the MAI's interest in not having its position regarding the treaties confused with that of the senators who, for reasons very different from ours, opposed ratification of the treaties.

In the face of the fait accompli of the amendments and reservations (hereinafter to be called the senatorial changes) which the U.S. Senate has introduced into the misnamed "Treaty Regarding the Permanent Neutrality and Operation of the Panama Canal," the national government has decreed an official silence pending the completion of the ratification process. This silence, if it were really observed, would perhaps be justified by virtue of the wide-ranging and serious consequences that will necessarily result from whatever decision the government reaches with regard to the acceptance or rejection of the amended treaties. However, a source of concern lies in the fact that while decreeing the above-mentioned silence the government, in the voice of Dr Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, announced that the senatorial reforms are "potable" ["potables"], which is equivalent to saying that they are acceptable. Apart from the fact that this statement is a prejudgment regarding the basis of the problem which allegedly is to be studied, it could undoubtedly also induce many foreign governments which have supported our cause to hasten unwittingly to the support of the amended treaty, when in the final analysis the position of the Panamanian Government must be precisely that of rejecting the new contractual texts as the historic meaning of the Panamanian people's struggle demands. The situation that would result from such actions by foreign governments would in no way be favorable to our national interests.

In view of the Senate changes and the approval accorded them initially by the Panamanian Government, the MAI believes that the reasons for maintaining silence no longer exist, and it believes that the time has come to explain its position with regard to the ramifications of these changes.

As far as is known on the date of this communique, the senatorial changes consist of: A) incorporation of the Torrijos-Carter statement of understanding into the neutrality treaty; B) provision for the possibility that the Republic of Panama may grant to the United States of America, after the year 2000, the right to maintain military bases on Panamanian territory; and C) concession to the United States, independent of the other provisions of the treaty, of the unrestricted, unconditional and unilateral right to take whatever measures it considers convenient--including the right to use its armed forces on Panamanian territory without the consent of the territorial sovereign--in the event that the canal is closed or its operations are interfered with for any reason, including purely domestic matters.

The Torrijos-Carter statement of understanding of 14 October 1977, as the MAI stated from the beginning, reiterated by way of clarification certain rights injurious to Panama which are granted to the United States in the neutrality treaty--rights which also constitute a most emphatic denial of neutrality in the true sense of the word. From this viewpoint, the Torrijos-Carter statement of understanding, despite its faulty wording, does not grant to the United States rights other than those contained in the treaty to which the statement of understanding refers. Consequently, the incorporation of said agreement into the text of the neutrality treaty, although formally an amendment of the treaty, in the main merely restates the harmful concessions granted in the treaty. Therefore, the amendment follows the literal sense of said understanding which repeatedly refers to the treaty and is based specifically on Articles 4 and 5.

The other two senatorial changes mentioned in previous paragraphs, on the contrary, if accepted by the Republic of Panama, would undoubtedly constitute substantial changes in form and content of the neutrality treaty, to the extent that the United States, through these changes, has proposed to the Republic of Panama the conclusion of a treaty that differs from the original.

One such change, ignoring the literal sense of Article V of the neutrality treaty, according to which after the year 2000 "only the Republic of Panama shall maintain military forces, defense sites and military installations within its territory," considers the possibility that the Republic of Panama will grant the United States the right to have military bases on Panamanian territory after that date. It is said that this change is without substance since it is always within the power of any state, in the exercise of its sovereign rights, to amend at its own discretion through bilaterial agreements the treaties it has concluded with another state. This argument is not valid. In effect, it happens that one of the aspects of the neutrality treaty highlighted by the national government was the very fact that it called for the dismantling of existing U.S. military bases in Panama by the year 2000, a fact which might have induced some states interested in this dismantling to take part in the neutrality treaty by becoming signatories to it. With this adherence completed, repeatedly government spokesmen [as published] would no longer be a bilateral agreement but would become a multilateral agreement with the consequence that any change which anyone desired to make in it would have to be agreed on by all the states signing the treaty. In contrast, the senatorial amendment under discussion would permit the Republic of Panama and the United States without the consent of the other states taking part in the treaty, to conclude bilateral military agreements to permit the United States to maintain bases in Panama after the year 2000. Such agreements would ruin the neutrality treaty even more. This being the case, no state which is not within the sphere of U.S. influence would be party to this treaty. Nobody who studies the ramifications of the senatorial reservation in the light of the aforementioned can say that the reservation is harmless.

The other change which has been mentioned, that of Senator Dennis DeConcini, would give the United States the right to take any measures it deems necessary, including the use of its armed forces in Panamanian territory, if the canal is closed or its operations are interfered with for any reason, even when such reasons pertain exclusively to the internal affairs of the Republic of Panama.

Viewed from any angle, the DeConcini reservation is a reprehensible and outrageous U.S. attempt to get the Republic of Panama to give the United States the right to intervene in affairs within our exclusive jurisdiction. If anyone doubts that it extends this far, let him read the words Senator DeConcini used to support his reservation in the U.S. Senate.

The MAI has no choice but to express its most profound indignation at the lack of respect the DeConcini reservation shows for the Republic of Panama. Fundamentally, its approval is a challenge to the Panamanian people's nationalist calling, a calling which has apparently been underestimated by the U.S. Senate.

If the DeConcini amendment had been proposed by U.S. Government representatives at the treaty negotiation stage, it would undoubtedly have been rejected. There is no valid reason to accept it now or to employ legal or diplomatic sophistry to minimize its repercussions and to ignore the irreparable harm which its approval by the Panamanian Government would do to the Panamanian state and nation.

On the other hand, it should be noted that in connection with the aforementioned senatorial changes it is clear that the U.S. Senate has not approved the Torrijos-Carter treaty. To pretend otherwise is to fail to see the truth and the legal facts. As treaty writers Moore, Kelsen, Hackworth, Verdross, Rousseau, Accioly, Podesta Costa, Oppenheim, Shwarzenberg and Anzilotti point out, in bilateral treaties reservations are equivalent to a rejection of the signed treaty and should be viewed as an offer to obtain a new treaty. This, no more and no less, is what the U.S. Government will be proposing to the Republic of Panama when it asks Panama to accept the reservations approved by the U.S. Senate.

The unequivocal rejection of said reservations is the only way in which the Republic of Panama can safeguard its sovereignty and demonstrate that it is on the side of the struggle of its people and with the tide of history that will sweep away all the colonialist structures that remain in the world. To accept these reservations is to condemn the present and future generations to having to hear once again the phrase which U.S. Secretary of State Hay uttered in 1903 when he said that the treaty is rife with clauses that every Panamanian patriot should object to.

Panama, 23 March 1978

For the MAI (the executive and consultative board)

[Signed] Carlos Ivan Zuniga, Mario Galindo H., Bolivar Davalos Moncayo, Tomas Herrera, Carlos Enrique Adames, Rodrigo Sanchez, Jose M. Faundez, Joaquin Ortega V., Natividad E. Pinango, Juan Felipe de la Iglesia, Elsa M. De Garcia, M. B. Barcia Almengor, Diogenes A. Arosemena G.

REVOLUTIONARY STUDENTS ISSUE ANTITREATY COMMUNIQUE

PA311740Y Panama City Radio Femenina in Spanish 1100 GMT 31 Mar 78 PA

[Communique issued by Revolutionary Students Front; read by member Guillermo Calvo--date not given]

[Text] In view of the situation presently prevailing in the country, in which the canal issue is the main concern, the FER-29 [Revolutionary Students Front] finds it necessary to explain its position to the citizenry.

The treaty is a manifestation at our level of the efforts being carried out worldwide by the Yankee imperialists to improve their image and that of the capitalist system at a time when the system is experiencing one of its worst economic crises.

At present, the national liberation movements in Asia and Africa have weakened the political and economic domination of the United States of America. Therefore, on this continent, the Torrijos-Carter treaty has been signed as a mechanism to maintain the domination of the Yankees in Latin America--their strategic rearguard in the face of the defeats they have suffered at the hands of popular forces on other continents.

Role of the Government in the Negotiations

The Torrijos government maintained throughout the negotiating process a position of defeatism and surrender as a result of its economic bankruptcy and its $2 billion debt to the Yankees. The outcome of these negotiations behind the people's backs--after a discussion in which the freedom of expression of those of us who opposed the treaty was curtailed--was a treaty which from the legal point of view is a monstrous aberration and which politically and economically favors the Yankee imperialists and the dominant Panamanian classes and leaves untouched the causes of conflict between the United States and Panama.

Ratification of the Neutrality Pact and its Amendments and Reservations

After a series of insults was hurled at Panama by the U.S. Senate, the neutrality treaty was ratified with its respective amendments and reservations. These amendments and reservations are designed to clarify the ambiguities contained in the neutrality pact and clearly establish the framework for U.S. action in Panama.

The reservation of Senator Dennis DeConcini establishes the U.S. right to interfere whenever the United States for any reason unilaterally considers free transit through the waterway to be threatened. We know that for the Yankees a student strike, a situation of economic crisis or a request by workers for a wage increase would be sufficient motive for the U.S. President to order a military invasion.

The government is therefore at a crossroads. It must either reject the amendment or allow intervention. The military men who are in power cannot act freely since they respond to the interests of the rich classes, interests which are the same as those of the imperialists, and the amendments serve as a guarantee by which the United States can protect its economic and political interests throughout Latin America. If the government accepts these amendments, it will be legalizing a permanent intervention in our fatherland and it will be stripping itself of its revolutionary mask to revealing what it has always been--servile, defeatist and traitorous.

We know that the government will not reject the amendments or the treaty because the treaty is its last means of emerging from the economic asphyxiation in which it finds itself as a result of its irrational policy of promoting models of development which favor nonproductive capital sectors such as commerce and services.

Now that the true imperialist nature of the Torrijos-Carter treaties has been revealed, the popular movement, which from the beginning strongly rejected the treaties, has stepped up its repudiation of them. Panamanian revolutionaries and patriots have established as their immediate goal the rejection, not only of the amendments, but also of both treaties, since they are injurious to national sovereignty and dignity. We must shake off once and for all the mirage of an easy victory and realize that the struggle will be long and hard and full of sacrifice if we are to perform the tasks that the situation demands. Now more than ever, we must defend our right to make decisions regarding a problem that is so important to our people--the problem of the canal. An attempt to usurp this right is being made by those who seek only a more viable formula for continuing the exploitation of our people. Sovereignty or death, we shall triumph.

TREATY AMENDMENTS SEEN AS CHANGING NEUTRALITY CONCEPT

PA0104152 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 31 Mar 78 p 6A PA

["Conciencia Publica" column by Miguel Angel Moreno Gongora: "The Declaration of Understanding"]

[Text] In the 23 October 1977 plebiscite we approved the Panama Canal treaties together with their annexes and protocols, which several weeks earlier, on 7 September, had been signed by Carter and Torrijos in a pompous and spectacular ceremony in Washington. This plebiscite was preceded by a worrisome and hasty public debate in which the opponents of the United States had only 45 days to express ideas and establish positions.

The chief of government of Panama arrived in Washington, and after his meeting with Carter on 14 October a declaration of understanding was issued referring to Article IV of the neutrality treaty which interpolates the criteria that "each of the two countries, according to their respective constitutional procedures, will defend the canal against any threat to its neutrality and consequently will have the right to act in case of aggression or threat directed against the canal or the peaceful transit of ships through the canal," and that "the neutrality treaty provides that the warships and auxiliary ships of the United States and Panama will have the right to transit the canal in an expeditious manner." This has the intention, and it will be so interpreted, of insuring the transit of those ships through the canal as quickly as possible, without obstacles, with simplified documentation and, in case of necessity or emergency, to go to the head of the line to transit the canal quickly.

The North Americans, who have now assumed the power to determine what the Panamanians aspire to, feel, reject or want, said that the declaration does not require another plebiscite and that the senators could therefore approve it as an amendment. But they were wrong again because from this moment on, in my opinion and in the opinion of many Panamanians, it is not necessary to expect further amendments, reservations, conditions or understandings to consider the neutrality treaty changed.

The inclusion of the declaration of understanding as an amendment to the neutrality treaty constitutes a substantial change to the sense and objective of the treaty because granting special concessions and privileges to U.S. ships changes the neutrality concept, which means no participation in any state of belligerency and complete impartiality. It also represents a negation of the will of the people. If the declaration was not included in the treaties passed in the plebiscite, it is clear that it does not have our consent.

The senators, not content with the declaration of understanding and demonstrating a great lack of confidence, even with President Carter, and with irrepressible colonialist voracity, went even further and introduced, through an "understanding," the concept that the interpretation of the state of "necessity or emergency" for any U.S. ship to go to the head of the line to transit the canal in an expeditious manner will be made unilaterally by the United States. This means that every time that the United States "feels like it," it can allege "necessity or emergency," and we cannot even express our opinion. We have no right to dispute it.

If the introduction of the declaration of understanding as an amendment substantially altered the will of the Panamanian people, the understanding which confers the right of unilateral interpretation to the United States of the meaning of "necessity or emergency" constitutes the greatest disregard for our dignity as a free and sovereign nation.

HONDURAN, SALVADORAN FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET ON BORDER PROBLEMS

PA040345Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0259 GMT 4 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpts] Lima, 3 Apr--The foreign ministers of Honduras and El Salvador today began a round of talks on solving their countries' border problems. Former Peruvian President Jose Luis Bustamante y Rivero is presiding over the talks, which resulted from negotiations held here in January. The two ministers, who arrived in Lima last weekend, told newsmen that they are optimistic about the outcome of the talks.

COSTA RICA

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES DEMAND WAGE INCREASE

PA310404Y San Jose Cadena de Emisora Columbia in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica--Public employees are planning a big demonstration to support the National Association of Public Employees in its efforts to have the government grant them a wage increase. The demonstration will be held at 1730 on 6 April near the Central Bank of Costa Rica in this capital. According to a recent study, in the past 11 years the purchasing power of public employees has dropped more than 35 percent. This situation is creating a serious problem to the public workers' budgets. During the demonstration, public employees will ask the government to freeze prices as the only way to prevent an increase in the cost of living and to make substantial income tax changes which will really benefit the workers.

EL SALVADOR

AUTHORITIES REPORT FPL ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES

PA040351Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0234 GMT 4 Apr 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 3 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--The Salvadoran authorities today, Monday, reported that the Farabundo Marti Popular Liberation Forces [FPL] had set off bombs, distributed subversive leaflets, and carried out other activities throughout the country in connection with the eighth anniversary of the FPL, just as the group had been announcing in pamphlets and leaflets distributed in various parts of the country. In San Miguel the criminal investigation section of the national police discovered and deactivated a homemade bomb lying on a sidewalk. It contained FPL leaflets. A similar bomb with leaflets was deactivated in Chalchuapa.

GUATEMALA

CONSORTIUM TO BUILD INTEROCEANIC OIL PIPELINE

PA032103Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1903 GMT 3 Apr 78 PA

[By Mauricio Barrera]

[Text] Guatemala City, 3 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Guatemalan Economy Minister Ramiro Ponce Monroy announced today that an international consortium will build an interoceanic oil pipeline through his country in order to transport U.S. crude oil from Alaska to Texas at a lower cost. The planned pipeline will be 365 km long. It will begin in the port of San Jose on the Pacific and will end at the Santo Tomas de Castilla port on the Atlantic. Its construction will require a $600 million investment.

By using this route, the U.S. oil companies will be able to transport crude from Alaska to Houston at a cost of $1.83 per barrel, which is more advantageous than transporting crude through the Panama Canal at a cost of $2.70 per barrel.

Ponce said the pipeline will be built by the Morrison-Knudsen, Thyssen-Rheinthal and Entrepose companies. The project has already been approved by Guatemala's economic commission headed by President Gen Kjell Laugerud Garcia. This commission is also made up of Economy Minister Ponce, Foreign Minister Adolfo Molina Orantes, Finance Minister Arturo Aroch and Agriculture Minister David Rubio.

It has been stated that the pipeline will also transport Indonesian oil for U.S. refineries in the east from the Pacific to the Atlantic. Both the Economy Ministry and the Government Ministry have approved the project which now only needs the approval of the Congress of the Republic where the governing party has a majority. The pipeline will have the capacity for transporting 1.5 million barrels of crude oil daily, according to Minister Ponce.

TRIBUNAL DECLARES MLN ELECTIONS APPEAL GROUNDLESS

PA011534Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0416 GMT 1 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 31 Mar (LATIN)--A special tribunal has declared groundless a writ of appeal filed by the rightist National Liberation Movement (MLN) against the Congress of the Republic for having declared the 5 March elections to be valid and chosen Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia president of the republic for the 1978-1982 term. The denial of the appeal firmly establishes the election of General Lucas Garcia, who was supported by the Revolutionary and Democratic Institutional Parties. The MLN challenged the elections on grounds of fraud.

MLN To Charge Unconstitutionality

PA031700Y Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa Network in Spanish 1220 GMT 3 Apr 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The National Liberation Movement [MLN] will file a charge of unconstitutionality this week against Congress for declaring Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia and Francisco Villagran Kramer president and vice president respectively. Last Friday the special appeals court rejected the appeal filed by the MLN. Spokesmen for General Lucas Garcia said the court had acted properly despite the coercion and threat to which its members were subjected. Spokesmen for the MLN said the decision disappointed them deeply, that they would not resign themselves to an electoral defeat and this week would file a charge of unconstitutionality.

HONDURAS

TIEMPO REPORTS NICARAGUAN TERRITORIAL VIOLATION

PA040342Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2233 GMT 3 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 3 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--According to the Honduran newspaper TIEMPO, in mid-March a large group of Nicaraguan soldiers violated Honduran territory in search of Sandinist guerrillas. According to the paper, the Nicaraguan soldiers crossed into Honduran territory while the Honduras Army was staging "Operation Veloz" along the Nicaraguan border. The Nicaraguans penetrated as far as Olancho Department, northeastern Honduras, in pursuit of members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front.

After reaching Olancho, the Nicaraguan National Guardsmen forcefully interrogated several peasants about the location of armed civilians from Nicaragua. The peasants were surprised by the Nicaraguan soldiers' methods and refused to answer any questions about Sandinists in the area. According to TIEMPO, the Nicaraguan soldiers identified the Sandinists as a group of "murderers and thieves fleeing from Nicaragua."

Officer Denies Joint Action

PA311320Y Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Tegucigalpa--Lt Col Leonidas Torres Arias, chief of the Honduran Army G-2, said yesterday that the armed forces do not care what the newspapers in Managua say in connection with the Honduran Army's Operation Veloz. For some time a newspaper in San Pedro Sula has been reporting on a secret document in connection with Operation Veloz. According to the document, Operation Veloz is a joint venture being carried out with the Nicaraguan National Guard for the purpose of capturing and even exterminating Sandinists if they cross into Honduran territory. Torres Arias said: I do not know if the document drafted by Nicaraguan students is official.

Asked about it, Torres Arias reiterated what armed forces chief Gen Policarpo Paz Garcia had said previously to the effect that the operation was being carried out in order to maintain the security of the area on the border with Nicaragua from where several complaints had been received. At no time, Torres Arias said, did the army general staff deny the existence of Operation Veloz. As a matter of fact, it confirmed the existence of the operation and explained the reasons why it was being carried out. What we did deny and again deny is that it was a joint operation with the Nicaraguan National Guard, he added. He said that it was an operation planned and carried out by the Honduran Army without the participation of any institution other than the Honduran Armed Forces. No foreign institutions were involved.

Torres Arias did not explain the origin of the document published in San Pedro Sula and Managua newspapers which was released to news media in Nicaragua by the revolutionary student front. He added, however, that as we see it, it is not an official document. No one from the armed forces signed it, and the document itself has no indications of originating in the armed forces.

Asked how he could explain such a publication, he answered: The truth is that we would be speculating if we tried to give an explanation. I really cannot say if the document can be considered to be official, nor do I want to say that this type of publication corroborates the existence of a campaign against the armed forces. The truth is that, if the general staff says that there is a campaign, then it is being said precisely because we have noted the existence of groups which are interested in trying to get the people to believe by any and all means available that the armed forces is collaborating with a given regime or, in this particular case involving Operation Veloz, that the armed forces made agreements with the Nicaraguan National Guard, Torres Arias stressed. He said that such actions are being constantly carried out by the Honduran Army and by armies of neighboring countries. When they are about to carry out operations in sectors next to our borders, the army general staffs of the two countries coordinate the action in order to avoid incidents.

Are the armed forces going to implement any measure to dispel such rumors? we asked Torres Arias. With a sardonic smile on his face, Torres Arias said that such rumors are infantile. We do not care what the Nicaraguan press reports. What we do care about is what the Honduran press says it has in its possession in regard to the institution. This is really what should worry us because it is happening here. So let the Nicaraguans worry about their problems, Torres Arias indicated.

When asked if it could be a campaign against him, he said: Frankly, I do not believe so. It would be giving too much importance to Torres Arias for a newspaper to use not just its personnel but also its pages to attack me. I am only a member of the armed forces. I really do not think it is a personal matter, he stressed.

Finally, Torres Arias announced that Operation Veloz had ended according to schedule and the results have been eminently satisfactory, that is, the results are in accord with what the armed forces general staff had planned as the operation's basic objective which, he added, was to maintain the security in those zones in order to prevent any armed groups, bandits, hoodlums or people without proper identification from crossing the border and to control the smuggling of cattle and basic grains in this sector. I reiterate that the general staff is satisfied with the results of the military operation. He explained that the operation was planned and carried out following a series of complaints and problems submitted to the armed forces by a large number of fellow citizens living in that area.

NICARAGUA

SOMOZA RETURNS FROM U.S. 'IN EXCELLENT HEALTH'

PA040159Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2247 GMT 3 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 3 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Gen Anastasio Somoza said upon his return from the United States today that he "is in excellent health." The Nicaraguan president's departure for the United States on Saturday of Holy Week caused speculation that he had suffered another cardiac crisis and that he would receive open-heart surgery. The president will hold a news conference tomorrow, Tuesday, to report on the objectives and accomplishments of his trip to the United States.

STUDENT DISTURBANCES REPORTED IN LEON

PA011311Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1220 GMT 1 Apr 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Student demonstrators in Leon yesterday caused some property damage. Some students were arrested. Police dispersed the demonstrators in front of the university and towed away cars parked in the area. An automobile owned by a Costa Rican, Jose Miguel Barzuna, was damaged.

University authorities reported last night that classes in Leon were disrupted due to the incidents. They also said a group asking for humane treatment of Sandinist prisoners who have been held in isolation for over 1 year in the model prison of Tipitapa are in their 60th hour of a hunger strike.

According to a last-minute report, a group of 10 women this morning occupied the Red Cross office in Carazo and started a hunger strike demanding humane treatment of imprisoned Sandinist leaders Tomas Borge and Marcio Jaen.

FURTHER HAVANA REPORTAGE ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S TOUR

Seeks Support for Policy

FL032043Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 3 Apr 78 FL

[Text] North American President Jimmy Carter has arrived in Liberia to pay a brief official visit in that African country before returning to Washington. Carter arrived in Liberia following a 3-day official visit to Nigeria.

The North American chief executive's visits to Nigeria and Liberia are to seek support for the so-called new North American policy for southern Africa which consists of saving the racist regimes of the region and defending the interests of enterprises exploiting the raw materials of those countries.

Many Problems Remain

FL032103Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2019 GMT 3 Apr 78 FL

[Text] U.S. President Jimmy Carter today returned to Washington at the conclusion of a 4-hour visit to Liberia in Africa. Previously he spent 3 days in Nigeria following a trip to Venezuela and Brazil.

TASS has commented that Carter's visit took place against the background of developing states' growing discontent with U.S. policy. It said he sought to soften the contradictions.

In the opinion of analysts, over the course of talks held in Venezuela and Brazil and later in Nigeria and Liberia, a path for rapprochment was not found and there are still many problems. Nigeria rejected Washington's anti-Cuba campaign, which tries to denigrate the Havana government's unselfish help for peoples struggling against reactionary forces, against imperialism and neocolonialism.

MALMIERCA MEETS WITH DE GUIRINGAUD IN PARIS

FL032308Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 3 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Paris--The Cuban and French foreign ministers, Isidoro Malmierca and Louis de Guiringaud, met today in Paris. The Cuban minister has been in Paris since Saturday, 25 March, en route to Havana from Iraq.

According to a Cuban source, the meeting this afternoon took place in a cordial atmosphere in which several topics of interest to both countries were discussed, including the situation in the Horn of Africa. At the same time, the two governments' common position on respect for the territorial integrity of the states of that African region was confirmed.

RADIO QUOTES EHTIOPIAN CHARGES AGAINST SOMALIA

PA020335Y Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Apr 78 PA

["World Events" commentary]

[Text] The Ethiopian revolutionary government has denounced the continuation of Somali's subversive actions in southeast Ethiopia and Somali's reiteration of its territorial claims regarding Ethiopia.

In statements made in Addis Ababa, an Ethiopian Foreign Ministry spokesman said that, despite the total defeat and expulsion of the interventionist Somali Army from the Ogaden region, the Somali leadership has publicly reiterated its position of not abandoning its expansionist ambitions. In his official statement the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry spokesman noted the consequences of the recent war promoted by Somalia and instigated by international imperialism and its agents in the region. He indicated that thousands of civilians died and property damage of more than $500 million resulted when the region was invaded militarily by Somalia. He also stressed that Somalia sustained a humiliating defeat in its irrational and illegal war. He added that Somalia is undergoing a severe economic crisis as a result of the annexationist aspirations of the Mogadiscio government.

Nevertheless, the official Ethiopian spokesman noted that all indications lead to the conclusion that the Somali rulers are determined to continue their acts of violence against Ethiopia. The Somali leadership has proclaimed its well-known confrontation position. It continues to publicize its territorial claims and furthermore has declared a war of attrition, the statement declared.

Prior to these statements by the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry, Richard Moose, U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, concluded an official 5-day visit to Somalia. During his stay in Mogadiscio a few weeks after the defeat of Somali's aggression against Ethiopia, the high-ranking U.S. official expressed U.S. willingness to again grant arms to Somalia in accordance with Washington's already obvious decision in this regard.

African newspapers have denounced the U.S. Government's obstinacy in maintaining its role in instigating the conflict between Somalia and Ethiopia and promoting the climate of tension in the Horn of Africa. Press circles recall that 1 month before the beginning of Somali's invasion of Ethiopia's Ogaden territory the U.S. State Department gave its approval of that interventionist operation. Other news circles have said that a peaceful solution to the conflict--as the revolutionary government of Addis Ababa proposes--is not desirable for the imperialist strategy in that area of Africa.

Despite the blatant Somali provocations against Ethiopia with the support of imperialism, the Ethiopian Government has firmly reiterated its intention not to violate the territorial integrity of Somalia. It has also warned about the need for mutual respect of the principles included in the UN and OAU charters as essential requirements to achieve a stable peace in the region.

After expressing its sympathy to the Somali masses, who are victims of the war, revolutionary Ethiopia, victor in the recent armed conflict in the Horn of Africa, also demanded from Somali respect for the principles of the nonalined movement, which are zealously respected by Ethiopia.

After proclaiming the clear, internationally known position of his country, the official Ethiopian spokesman alerted world public opinion in the face of the omnious situation being promoted by Somalia in alliance with imperialism.

USSR CONSTRUCTION DELEGATION ARRIVES IN SANTIAGO

FL032250Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2203 GMT 3 Apr 78 FL

[Text] A delegation headed by (Ivan Pavolvich Diatrov), deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee construction department, has arrived in the city of Santiago de Cuba. The delegation includes (Nasib Rasarubovich), chief of the Uzbek Republic Communist Party Central Committee construction department, and (Vladislav Kriseskiy, official at the Central Committee construction department. (Juan Antonio Rosas), Santiago de Cuba provincial party executive bureau member, received the construction delegation at Antonio Maceo International Airport. During their stay in Santiago de Cuba Province, the members of the Soviet delegation will visit historic and tourist sites together with projects under construction.

FURTHER SUGAR HARVEST PROBLEMS RESULT FROM RAINFALL

FL010041Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Rain continues to affect milling at the sugar mills, especially in the eastern provinces. Only 79 percent of the country's milling potential operated today. The main disruptions due to bad weather and other agroindustrial causes today were: Milling in Guantanamo was at 43 percent, in Camaguey at 65, Las Tunas at 67, Ciego de Avila at 73, and Sancti Spiritus at 77 percent.

Only one province had milling of over 90 percent--Matanzas, which achieved the best milling at 95 followed by Havana at 90 percent. The significant effort of the agroindustrial forces of Matanzas and Havana mills is the reason for this, according to an informational note by our reporter Mario Gonzalez Valdes.

For their part, the four Pinar del Rio mills resumed their operations in the present 1977-78 harvest following a halt of their equipment because of the rains which prevented a stable supply of sugarcane to their tandems. Despite these setbacks, the province took measures to lessen the effects caused by the rains, among them the incorporation of extra number of canecutters and equipment.

Lastly, our correspondent Felix Valdes Machado reports from Camaguey that workers in that province must complete the planting of 500 caballerias of sugarcane by 15 April and another 500 between 15 and 30 April to cope with the rains which up to now have affected the present sugarcane harvest.

ARMANDO HART CLOSES CULTURAL SEMINAR

FL012024Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Armando Hart, PCC Politburo member and culture minister, is at this moment closing the seminar on cultural information which has been meeting at the Union of Cuban Journalists--UPEC--since Wednesday, 28 March. At the meeting, which is being closed right now, journalists from various national and provincial press organs have attended lectures and presentations from Culture Ministry vice ministers and officials and from organizations in this field. In the first part of his remarks, Hart referred to the possibilities of taking advantage of research methods in our cultural roots, our fundamental cultural relations with the USSR, and the importance of enriching the socialist content of our art with the most genuine forms of Cuban culture and that of other peoples. He also stressed the role of press in dissemination of the most genuine experiences in the national artistic culture.

SENEN CASAS ATTENDS DAAFAR AIR SHOW

FL031754Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 3 Apr 78 FL

[Excerpts] A brilliant demonstration of skill, daring and color characterized the Revolutionary Air Force and Antiaircraft Defense--DAAFAR--air show held to honor the 11th World Youth and Students Festival. Division Gen Senen Casas Regueiro, PCC Central Committee member and first vice minister-chief of the general staff, other FAR vice ministers and Brig Gen Calixto Garcia, PCC Central Committee Military Departm it chief, presided over the event held in Ciudad Libertad. Also in the presidium were Manuel Villamar, chairman of the 11th World Youth and Students Festival national preparatory committee, and members of the 11th festival international preparatory committee.

Col Rafael del Pino, air combat instructor, Playa Giron combat pilot and internationalist combatant, made the opening remarks at the air show. Colonel del Pino spoke about our glorious air force's participation in the Playa Giron battles and paid homage to the heroic comrades who fell in that confrontation with the mercenary aggressors.

RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ CLOSES SEMINAR SERIES

FL312136Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2032 GMT 31 Mar 78 FL

[Marcos Carmona report]

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, PCC Politburo member and Council of State vice president, has made the closing remarks at the "International Friday" conference series which since last February has been held at the Central Organization of Cuban Workers--CTC--for leadership cadres of the labor movement. Presiding at the event were Roberto Veiga, PCC Central Committee member and CTC secretary general, CTC Second Secretary Agapito Figueroa and CTC Executive Secretariat member Jesus Escandel.

"International Friday," sponsored by the CTC international relations department, included conferences on the nonalined movement and the 1979 summit, Ethiopia, the Horn of Africa, Middle East conflicts and other topics. Carlos Rafael Rodriguez referred to international problems and called upon labor leaders to study and to know more every day about the questions relating to the topics discussed at the conferences.

MIRET SPEAKS AT TECHNICAL BRIGADES MEETING

FL011740Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Apr 78 FL

[Text] PCC Central Committee Politburo member Pedro Miret has made the closing remarks at the first national meeting on spare parts held by the technical youth brigades. The meeting was held at the Union of Young Communists--UJC--Julio Antonio Mella cadre school in Havana. Miret said the meeting was a productive one, adding that it marked the end of a period of positive work and the start of another work phase which appears to be a promising one for creative youth. Pedro Miret added that the work of technical brigades, besides solving pressing economic problems, is an excellent vehicle for acquiring technical habits.

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

MATERIALS ON VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT

Andres Perez Arrives

PA311550Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1528 GMT 31 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Willemstad, 31 Mar (LATIN)--Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez arrived here today for a 2-day visit to the Netherlands Antilles where he will participate in the signing of a border delimitation treaty between Venezuela and these Caribbean islands. Perez was greeted on his arrival by Minister-President Silvius Rozendal, who said this was "a historic visit." Rozendal said that the maritime border delimitation treaty negotiated by Venezuela and the Netherlands Antilles "is very satisfactory" to this colony which is presently negotiating its independence.

Addresses Legislative Council

PA011633Y Caracas Domestic Service in Spanish 211 GMT 31 Mar 78 PA

[Speech by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez to the Legislative Council of Netherlands Antilles--live]

[Excerpts] Mr President of the Legislative Council of the Netherlands Antilles, Mr Governor, Mr Minister-President, members: Please allow me to address our Latin American compatriots on a wide range of subjects. [applause] I feel very honored by this invitation to address the Legislative Council of the Netherlands Antilles. It is a privilege to be the first foreign chief of state to address this body.

This democracy, situated very close to Venezuela, is linked to us by the deepest sense of affection. We express our fraternal feelings to the legitimate representatives of the Antillean people, who are linked to Venezuelans by profound social, cultural and geopolitical roots.

A common aspiration brings us together on this day: to express the unity of our people and to bring to fruition a goal of both our nations. I come here today to confirm that Venezuela places at the service of the fraternal Antilles our centers of secondary and university training, all our institutions, our economic resources, and above all, our full friendship.

The hour of our definitive and total reencounter has arrived. Colonialism and its vestiges will soon disappear from the face of the earth. Now, face to face, viewing each other as brothers resolved to march together, we join you on the same path of integrating the great Latin American fatherland in which the Caribbean, possessing a glorious and brilliant history, will have much to give and much to receive.

We have signed a treaty that should be a source of pride and satisfaction for both nations. But this is just the beginning of integral cooperation between Venezuela and the Antilles. We await with jubilation [words indistinct] the day on which we will raise the seven-starred tricolor in our country and join in the glorious celebrations of the independence of this Antillean nation, a day which we feel is very near and which we will celebrate as a great day in our country.

We await your future participation in the United Nations and the Organization of American States to lend vigor and strength to the cause which we are pursuing through dialog, to create a new international economic order.

In the Caribbean, Venezuela wants to share responsibilities with all of the other countries to resolve our common problems. In Latin America, we Venezuelans want to be the first to take action to achieve the supreme objective of integration and thereby forge a future of progress, wellbeing and dignity. We developing countries are the ones that can offer new horizons to this world afflicted with crisis because of the selfishness and privileges of a small group of industrialized nations. Only by our participation will it be possible to achieve the moral recovery that will return vigor and dynamism to the great industrial countries. Venezuela is not a rich country, despite its resources in oil, a basic non-renewable product that will be exhausted some day. We have begun the task of development in order to establish the firm bases of our economy and wellbeing of our people. Nevertheless, we realize that we are a part of the Latin American community, and we pledge to share our resources. And it is for this reason that we dedicate a part of our oil revenue to international assistance funneled through the OPEC fund, and to regional assistance through the regional credit organizations and bilateral agreements with Central America, some of the Caribbean countries, and Latin America.

The very close bonds existing between us and the Antilles oblige us, as I already said, to make a real contribution here as well as in other countries of the region. Interdependence of the Antilles is a new challenge which all of us must face with open and clear understanding if we are to establish precisely what is needed to insure that the country is stable, secure, sovereign, unhindered and independent. Where Venezuela is concerned, this is a commitment which I make in the name of my people. Venezuela is prepared to contribute everything possible to insure peaceful, secure, sincere and open relations so that this new nation may be another great expression of Latin American democracy.

Rozendal Speaks at Ceremony

PA0100028Y Caracas Domestic Service in Spanish 1711 GMT 31 Mar 78 PA

[Speech by Netherlands Antilles Minister-President Silvius Rozendal at signing ceremony in Curacao of maritime delimitation agreement with Venezuela--live]

[Text] Mr President Carlos Andres Perez, Most Excellent Netherlands Antilles Governor, Most Excellent Foreign Minister, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, distinguished visitors, ladies and gentlemen:

The Netherlands Antilles is deeply honored today by the presence of such distinguished guests as you, Mr President, and all the members of your party. On reiterating to you our welcome on behalf of the government and peoples of the Antilles, I hope that your visit, although brief, will serve as another demonstration of the fraternity and cordiality which has characterized our relations for many years. This fraternity and cordiality is evidenced once again by the marine and submarine delimitation agreement signed a few moments ago between our two governments.

I celebrate [words indistinct] carried out between the Venezuelan and Netherlands Antilles delegations managed to point out to us, the rulers of our countries, the path for defining those limits considered just and satisfactory by Venezuela and the Netherlands Antilles. Nevertheless, I wish to express to the delegates and experts of Venezuela, the Netherlands and our Antilles my sincere appreciation of your work carried out magnificently with high dedication, skill and conscientiousness. After the negotiations began in June 1973, time passed while our delegations opened the path for a favorable and equitable decision by the two parties involved. Our position has always been that it was not a case of maritime limits between Venezuela and the Netherlands, but between Venezuela and the Netherlands Antilles, with due consideration to a future Antillean nation. Therefore, our economic and political interests were predominant during the negotiations for a just and definitive agreement. This position never ceased to be considered by the Venezuelan Government. With high satisfaction and pride we can state that today, Friday, 31 March 1978, we have fulfilled one of the indispensable conditions for definitely facing our future, [words indistinct] in what constitutes the future sovereign territory of our Antilles.

We congratulate ourselves for this success in our history and we propose to continue our efforts to be totally successful in our struggle and tasks which lead to our independence. In this respect, virtually all Antilleans share the idea that we are now politically independent, but economically dependent. This is not what our hearts yearn for. The welfare of all the people, which has always been the government's concern, cannot be assured unless our independence becomes effective after having established the foundation for the integral development of the economic, political, social and cultural fields.

I reiterate that we congratulate ourselves for the step taken on this date, which is a significant political and economic landmark for a country such as ours which looks out for the welfare of its people. The Netherlands Antilles Government considers that the delimitation of the waters under our jurisdiction will provide an impetus to exploratory and productive activities for the benefit of our economy in general and a more balanced development of each island of the Antilles in particular. In this respect, we share the opinion that the resources earmarked for research [words indistinct] right now, we are at the most favorable position to do so.

I conclude by expressing our sincere appreciation to you, President Carlos Andres Perez, for your valuable and significant cooperation traditionally received by us each time we request your distinguished cooperation. To you and your illustrious delegation I wish a pleasant stay in Curacao, Aruba and Bonaire and express on behalf of my government and people our gratitude for your visit. Thank you. [applause]

Perez' Reply

PA0101292 Caracas Domestic Service in Spanish 1728 GMT 31 Mar 78 PA

[Speech by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez during signing of maritime delimitation agreement in Curacao, Netherlands Antilles--live]

[Text] Mr Minister-President of the Netherlands Antilles, Foreign Minister of Venezuela, (?ministers) of state of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, distinguished Antillean and Venezuelan guests:

I share with sincere emotion the ideas expressed by Mr Rozendal, my friend, minister-president of the Netherlands Antilles. This treaty that has just been signed is a momentous event in the relations between the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Antillean Government and people and the Venezuelan Government and people.

Every process of border negotiation is difficult due to the very essence of the problems to be solved. Each negotiating delegation (?is assigned) the task of obtaining those solutions that best reflect the objectives of each country [word indistinct]. At the negotiating table theses and arguments supporting every point of view are outlined and ideas are exchanged in order to obtain the best possible result. During these 4 years of talks all of us have acted with a noble and far-reaching historical vision. [words indistinct] we were always guided by an awareness of a past, a present and a future that (?unite) us and a common destiny of shared responsibilities. That is why the result has been a coupling of the interests of both sides to preserve, strengthen and promote harmony in the present and the future for two nations called upon by history to be united and to cooperate fraternally. We shall always share responsibilities and will always feel that we have a common destiny. This is the case of the maritime delimitation treaty between the Netherlands Antilles and Venezuela. It does not separate us. It unites and binds us because this Antillean sea has been [words indistinct] and eliminated distances.

The treaty [words indistinct] as well as the political future of the Antilles and Venezuela. For Venezuelans and Antilleans, [words indistinct] and especially along the important route between [words indistinct] and Aruba, a veritable umbilical cord between our oil supply sources, the Antillean refineries and the international markets. The result, as it had to be, strikes a balance between common objectives because it is just and equitable. We were always conscious that, as every border treaty, [words indistinct] permanently toward the future. Aware of this reality, our basic instruction to the negotiators was to achieve a result that would contribute to rapprochement between our peoples and never to their estrangement. We cannot lose sight of the fact that however fundamental the geopolitical interests of peoples may be the truly important issue lies in the fact that the defense of these interests must not become a source of antagonism or a permanent obstacle to a sincere and lasting understanding. Furthermore, is not our desire for integration sincere?

The problems plagueing mankind require a high degree of solidarity and cooperation among the developing nations, particularly in Latin America. This unity must be reflected in all international forums and must be expressed in bilateral relations between states. The concept of interdependence among equals leads both countries to acts of mutual cooperation and cooperation with the other countries of the area. We will be part of the great Latin American fatherland. United, we will build a common destiny. These negotiations, which have so happily concluded today, are a reflection of these overall relations between our peoples and governments. We are fully aware of the basic importance of these negotiations in regard to the independence of the Antilles, which Venezuela not only backs but feels with fraternal solidarity. The peoples of the Antilles and Venezuela will never forget or break the historical, social and trade ties which the future political situation cannot fail to support and consolidate.

I wish to express publicly my recognition of all those who have made possible the happy conclusion of the negotiations and of the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, a country with which Venezuela has had and will have excellent relations of broad cooperation, particularly in the technological, trade and economic fields. The attitude of the Kingdom of the Netherlands during the delimitation negotiations and in the process for the independence of the Antilles has been and is clear and (?unequivocal). I take this opportunity to express this special recognition on behalf of my people, interpreting the feelings of all of Latin America. This recognition is fraternally extended to the people and Government of the Antilles, to whom I have wanted to reiterate with my presence the friendship of Venezuela and our commitment to unity for the progress, well-being and [word indistinct] of (?our peoples). [applause]

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